

Foothill Transit Governing Board

MINUTES

The Special meeting of the Foothill Transit Governing Board was held Thursday, October 30, 2008, at the Foothill Transit Board Room, 2nd Floor, 100 South Vincent Avenue, West Covina.

President Peggy Delach called the meeting to order at 7:45 a.m. The following members were present, constituting a quorum of the Governing Board:

Corey Calaycay
Robert Rodriguez
Paula Lantz
Emmett Badar
Keith Hanks
Peggy Delach
Doug Tessitor
Roger Hernandez
Roger Chandler
Richard Barakat
Manuel Garcia
Dan Kirby
Kenneth Gillanders
Carol Herrera
Jeff Parriott
Lola Storing
Joaquin Lim
Michael De La Torre
Patricia Wallach
David Rodriguez

Staff and Guests present:

Doran Barnes, Executive Director
Kevin McDonald, Deputy Executive Director
Richard Hasenohrl, Director of Finance
Dietter Aragon, Planning Manager
Darold Pieper, General Counsel
Linda Somilleda, Director of Marketing & Communications
Lee Millen, Deputy Secretary
David Reyno, Director of Government Relations

Pledge of Allegiance

President Delach led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL GOVERNING BOARD MEETING OF
MAY 8, 2008**

The minutes for the Special Governing Board meeting of May 8, 2008, were approved as submitted.

Motion: Member Storing, seconded by Member De La Torre
Vote: Unanimously carried

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Griffeth greeted the Governing Board.

**AMEND JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY (JPA) AGREEMENT TO ADD PASADENA AS
A MEMBER AGENCY**

David Reyno, Director of Government Relations, reported that a letter was sent to each JPA member city's Mayor, Foothill Transit Governing Board member, and a Governing Board alternate requesting comments regarding the addition of Pasadena as a member agency, the proposed structure change to the Foothill Transit Governing Board, and initial thoughts on whether they would approve Pasadena as a Foothill Transit JPA member. For the Los Angeles County cluster, letters were sent to three County Supervisors and their Governing Board representative. Responses were received from 10 cities and the County all indicating support for including Pasadena as a JPA member and offering no additional comments or concerns.

The next step in this process is to ask all agencies to ratify a modification to the JPA Agreement to add Pasadena as a member of the JPA. This will require a second letter to the agencies to place this item on an upcoming meeting agenda for an official vote. The request is that all JPA member organizations formally vote to amend the Foothill Transit JPA Agreement to add the City of Pasadena as a JPA member.

Doran Barnes commented that the rules and bylaws require changing in the Agreement to add the City of Pasadena, so a vote would be needed for that, also. Darold Pieper, General Counsel, responded by saying that the request is two-fold: (1) To authorize Foothill Transit transmit the Agreement to their respective cities, counties, and each of their Governing Board members and Board of Supervisors; and (2) An adjustment to the existing clusters.

Member Lantz asked why the term "President" was being changed to "Chair" on the Agreement rules. Mr. Reyno responded that it was a more common term used for leaders of a Board of Directors. It wouldn't be a term that would be adopted within the JPA but would be used within interactions with the media.

Following discussion, the Governing Board voted to approve the request that all JPA member organizations formally vote to amend the Foothill Transit JPA Agreement to add the City of Pasadena as a JPA member.

A roll call vote was called to approve.

Motion: Member Calaycay, seconded by Member Hernandez
Vote: Unanimously carried
Ayes: 20 votes.
Noes: None.
Abstentions: None.

The motion passed.

After the vote, Doran Barnes notified the Board that they will provide correspondence regarding the item forwarded to all JPA member City Clerks, City Managers and their Mayors.

FOOTHILL TRANSIT PROGRAM UPDATES

Doran Barnes, Executive Director, announced that David Alvarez, Coach Operator, passed away the night before the meeting.

1. Bus Purchases - George Karbowski, Director of Operations and Maintenance, reported on Foothill Transit's commitment to replace its entire bus fleet with Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) buses before 2010. Last week, subsequent to Executive Board approval, Foothill Transit signed a contract with North American Bus Industries (NABI) to replace 30 of those buses. The contract includes future options for an additional 60 buses which ensures the final replacement of all of the diesel buses, as well as maintaining the uniformity of the Foothill Transit fleet. The new NABI bus will be 42 ft. long with styling identical to the popular Silver Streak. The buses are scheduled for delivery in February-April 2009.

Following discussion, the Governing Board received and filed the Bus Purchase update.

Motion: Member Chandler, seconded by Member Calaycay
Vote: Unanimously carried

2. Going for Green - Linda Somilleda, Director of Marketing & Communications, reported on Foothill Transit implementing the Veolia Transportation Going for Green Customer Care training program in November 2008. The customer service training program is an all-day session that helps staff identify potentially volatile situations (classified red or yellow, as in a traffic light) and modify them into diplomatic ones (classified green). The training includes play-acting real life scenarios to help in calming down volatile customers at various stages.

The course was originally designed for bus operators but has been revamped to assist Transit Store managers and other Customer Service-related operations. Foothill Transit is the first North American transit business to use this revamped training course.

3. Legislative Update – David Reyno, Director of Government Relations, reported that AB2009 – the Utility Users Tax passed with unanimously approved votes. He thanked State Assemblymen Ed Hernandez, Bob Huff, and State Senator Bob Margett for helping the bill get passed. He reported that Governor Schwarzenegger, in his 2008-09 State Budget, reduced State General Fund expenditures by \$510 million below the expenditure levels authorized by the legislature, which includes a \$100 million reduction in the State Transit Assistance (STA) program. Nearly \$1.7 billion of traditional public transportation dollars were diverted to pay General Fund expenditures. Unfortunately, there has been no word on their \$5 million grant for bus replacement.

4. Transit Access Pass - Richard Hasenohrl, Director of Finance, reported on the problems faced with the installation of Transit Access Pass (TAP) equipment. Installation was halted when Cubic Transportation, the farebox vendor, was unable implement farebox functionality as per their agreement. The most notable problems with functionality are:

- Fare enforcement
- Rear door boarding
- Ridership revenue reporting
- The use of magnetic media
- Issuing transfers, and
- Proof of payment for Silver Streak service.

In an effort to improve functionality Foothill Transit met with Cubic Transportation at their facilities in San Diego last May. The meeting was successful and they will meet again next month. The budget has been plagued with many delays.

Richard Barakat asked what kind of compensation is being done since Cubic Transport failed to provide the fareboxes. Will the contract be cancelled? Will Cubic refund Foothill Transit? Doran Barnes responded by saying that Foothill is not the main contractor, it's a part of LA Metro's countywide contract for fareboxes, so Metro is providing the funding for the fareboxes. Paula Lantz invited Governing Board members to attend the Executive Board Workshop on November 18, 2008 where the farebox issue will be discussed at greater length.

5. Performance Indicators Update - Dietter Aragon, Planning Manager, reported on the First Quarter of FY2009 Performance Indicators Report. Data for the report is collected from a variety of sources such as the fareboxes on buses, contractor reported data, and financial performance data.

The primary goal for Foothill Transit has been to operate a safe transit system based on preventable accidents per 100,000 miles. They have been enjoying one of their safest years on record.

Doug Tessitor asked how boardings were up while revenues were down, per the report. Richard Hasenohrl responded that if pass sales are bought the previous month, then that will affect revenue decreasing even though boardings will increase for the same month. It's basically a timing issue.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENT

Doran Barnes reported that in spite of the turbulent economy Foothill Transit is being very careful in their funding, and if they continue to be careful they will be able to deliver on all their plans for this coming Fiscal Year. Next year's Fiscal Year, however, is up in the air. Transit depends on sales tax revenues, and if consumer spending declines then funding will decline along with it. Hypothetically, if funding declines, service reduction and fare increases would have to be taken into serious consideration. On the other hand, if Measure R passes on November 4, 2008 (it did) it will bring in some much needed subsidy funding.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Governing Board adjourned at 8:25 a.m.